

**Marwood
Nursing &
Rehab**

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September 18, 2006

Good Morning Committee Members,

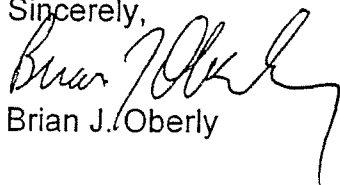
I am Brian Oberly, Administrator with Marwood Nursing and Rehab in Port Huron. Our facility is a member of the Michigan Association of Homes and Services to the Aging. MAHSA members are not-for-profit 501(C)(3) corporations that offer comprehensive services, housing and benevolent care to Michigan's seniors.

As a member of the House Tax Policy Committee, I am writing to ask for your support of House Bill 6209.

- In Michigan there is growing trend by local municipalities to impose property taxation on not-for-profit providers of assisted living and health care facilities. Several MAHSA members who were previously not taxed were placed on the property tax rolls this year while others were exempted.
- MAHSA members have always been tax exempt, including property tax.
- In the Michigan Public Health Code a licensed health facilities tax exempt.
- The taxes assessed against these not-for-profit facilities are directly passed on to the seniors who are often living on a fixed budget.
- The recent Michigan Supreme Court decision in *Wexford Medical Group s. City of Cadillac*, SC Docket No. 127152 ruled in favor of the Wexford Medical Group.
- However, without law, court decisions are subject to interpretation and challenges.

In closing I would like to reiterate that as a Non-Profit organization all of our operations are focused on helping our residents enjoy a great quality of life by investing in our buildings and programs. We also focus on ways to help the community. This is only possible through our benevolent efforts as a non-profit organization.

Sincerely,


Brian J. Oberly



Affiliated with



**Port Huron
Hospital**